Appl. No. 09/773,665 Amdt. Dated: June 20, 2005

Reply to Office Action of: December 20, 2004

Amendments to the Specification

Please delete the entire paragraph found on page 4, between lines 9 - 29.

Please delete the entire paragraph found on page 5, between lines 1 - 12.

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 4, following line 8:

In one aspect, the present invention provides a method for verifying a signature for a message m in a data communication system, established between a sender and a recipient, said sender generating masked signature components (r, s, c), where r is an integer derived from a coordinate of a first short term public key kP, s is a signature component derived by binding a second short term private key, the message m and short and long term private keys, and c is a second signature component obtained by combining said first and second short term private keys, the method comprising the steps of having a verifier: obtain a pair of signature components (\bar{s}, r) , the component \bar{s} being derived from first and second signature components generated by a signor; recovering a coordinate pair (x_1, y_1) corresponding to said first short term public key kP using the pair (\bar{s}, r) and the message m; calculate a signature component r' from one of the coordinate pairs, and verify the signature if r' = r.

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